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The Intelligencer

WHEELING, APRIL 25, 1895.

Pulling the City Out of the Hole.

The Register, speaking of the refusal of council to go into the matter of the purchase of the Wheeling Electrical Company's lighting plant, coldly remarks: "It now remains for these solons to provide another way to get the city out of the deep and deepening financial hole it is in." So it does, but who got the city in the hole?

It was a Democratic council, and the hole is all that the Register says it is. Democratic administration found it easier to make the hole than to fill it up, and there we are. The Republican council will have to try to pull the city out.

One way is to levy a tax for lighting the streets. This would relieve the gas board of a burden which should be borne by taxpayers in common, the benefits of lighted streets being shared in common. To do this the legislature will have to be asked to pass an enabling act, the levy being now up to the limit. Meanwhile a bonded debt can be created to tide over. There will probably be need of \$100,000 by the end of this year to clear up everything. The present debt is \$734,000, still short of the limit.

Of twenty-two cities having population between 31,000 and 82,000 but two have less debt than Wheeling. Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with an assessed valuation not much more than half that of Wheeling, has twice the indebtedness. Charleston, South Carolina, with about the same assessed valuation as Wheeling, has more than five times as much debt.

With but one exception of the twenty-two cities named Wheeling has the lowest tax rate, \$9.90 on the \$1,000 of valuation. Peoria, Illinois, comes along at a lively jog with a tax rate of \$64.20, and takes place at the head of the list. Wheeling can pull herself out of the hole and then stand remarkably well in comparison with other cities. Of course it would have been better to keep out of the hole.

Ask for an Orange, Get a Stone.

A good deal has been said about the wooden nutmegs and sawdust hams of Connecticut, a state rich in inventive ingenuity. But these things have passed away and linger only as memories. Now and then a buyer of wool has found in the fleeces such things as gravel, stones, railroad spikes and rusty bolts, which sold better as wool than as refuse and junk.

We are not in the habit of regarding as a particularly alert-minded person the exiled Italian count who sells us "da cheapa bananas," but there is some commercial shrewdness in his country. It is found, if nowhere else, among the orange growers of Sicily. New York importers, who thought they were buying boxes of oranges, were in fact buying orange boxes filled with stones and sand with a top dressing of fruit so poor that it had to be thrown away.

The importer makes advances on the fruit before it is shipped, and then he is in for it and unhappy. To persons not in the trade it would seem possible to establish on the other side a system of inspection in the interest of the importer.

Another excellent way would be to advise the Sicilian shippers that there is in this country an abundant supply of sand and stone, and that until they have some oranges to sell they can find no business here.

The Woman On the Wheel.

Those highly sensitive persons who object to a woman cyclist wearing the dress that is most comfortable and convenient may have been about a good deal and may have seen many persons and things under many circumstances, but there is one place they have never visited.

They have never been to the sea shore. If they had been by the side of the sounding sea they would have seen women in bathing costumes, which are cut very short in the skirt and very low in the neck and have no sleeves to speak of, in fact they require much less material than is used for the stage costume of a ballet dancer. No woman has ever appeared on a wheel in any such severity of attire, nor is any woman likely so to appear.

This matter of a cycling garb for women will regulate itself, or be regulated by the common sense of those who have occasion to wear it. Certainly the fashion will not be set by those who do not know what is required and who are giving themselves concern about it.

The cycling woman is "all right" and will continue to make converts of the woman who have the courage to follow

her example. There are plenty who would like to join her on the road if they could get their courage up to that point.

The European Protest.

If it be true that Russia, France and Germany have united in a protest against the acquisition by Japan of any part of the mainland of China, it will be interesting to know what view other nations will take of the protest. Great Britain, it is understood, is satisfied with the treaty and will not look with favor on any interference with it.

Germany is not much for reaching out for territory far away from home, but Russia and France do as large a business in that line as circumstances will permit. Even now France, without any ground to base her pretensions on, is trying to steal Madagascar, as she has already stolen several slices of the African mainland.

Russia has laid violent hands on as much of Asia as she could get hold of and for years has been getting ready to try to snatch Afghanistan. If anybody may take a slice of Asiatic territory it should be an Asiatic power, especially one that gets it from a defeated nation as part of the price of peace.

Germany took from France money and territory as war indemnity. Germany would have thought it a joke if Japan had protested. Where does Germany find her warrant to protest when Japan comes to do a similar thing under similar circumstances? Not one of them has any business to interfere.

Price of Treasury Silver.

A reader of the INTELLIGENCER desires to know whether it is not true that the silver act of 1890, commonly known as the Sherman act, required the secretary of the treasury to buy silver at \$1.10 per ounce.

On the contrary the secretary of the treasury was directed to purchase monthly 4,500,000 ounces of fine silver bullion or so much thereof as might be offered, at the market rate, not to exceed one dollar for 371 1/4 grains of fine silver, the amount contained in a standard silver dollar. He was to buy at market rate, but in no case was he to pay more than a dollar for the silver that goes into a coin of that denomination.

In 1893, the year of the repeal of the silver purchasing clause of the act of 1890, the average price of silver was .845, and the treasury bought at this market rate. The amount of silver bullion purchased under the act was 168,674,682 fine ounces at an average cost of .9224 per ounce.

The Rich and Their Riches.

Notwithstanding Mr. George Gould insists that he lives in New Jersey, the Gould estate will have to stand a tax assessment of \$10,000,000 in New York. This Mr. Gould will resist so far as he can. Having declared New Jersey to be his place of residence he cannot well dodge taxes there on his personal property. If he has to pay twice that will be his own fault, and he will not be forced to go "over the hills to the poor house."

A few thousand dollars one way or the other can make no real difference to Mr. Gould, but the rich men of the earth let go about as hard as those who have much less. For some reason they don't like to see their money circulating with any great freedom. It has even been noticed that the eagle on the rich man's quarter can scream louder than the proud bird on the poor man's coin. This may be because the rich man realizes that riches take wing.

A Dangerous Taste.

Persons who handle too familiarly paper money and public library books will be interested in what the doctor says through the INTELLIGENCER in another column. Everybody should know that there is a good chance to contract disease from everything of the sort. Nevertheless there are thousands upon thousands who do not hesitate to handle old money and old books as though there were no danger in them.

Tastes differ, of course, but there are those who do not hesitate to moisten their fingers from the mouth while they are handling paper money and books that have passed through many hands. It is very easy not to do this.

Wool is the lowest on record in the American market—16 cents a pound for clean XX Ohio wool! Behold what free trade hath wrought. Is it strange that growers are not shouting themselves hoarse for the Democratic party? And by the way, this is just 10 cents a pound less than the price fixed by the Register just before the election of last year. What has knocked 10 cents off the price? The Register should be able to explain this dropping with a "deep, dull thud."

OPERATORS in the Pittsburgh coal field profess to believe that Ohio operators are helping along the strike against them. There has been reason before now to suspect this kind of thing of employers of labor, and it has been suspected of men engaged in coal mining. Employers who fall in with such campaigning to help it along are not wise in their generation. It is rarely good policy to pull other people's chestnuts out of the fire.

If the President and the secretary of agriculture can get along at the same table without being head over heels in love with each other, the rest of us needn't care.

"POOR CUBA."

A Dark Outlook for the Island in the Near Future.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21.—A private letter received here to-day from one of the most prominent business men at Havana says:

"Poor Cuba! The horrible condition of affairs here is not yet realized by the outer world. With the close of the sugar season next month there will be misery and famine. The sugar crop has been far below the average this year, and all of it will now be subject

to the new United States tariff on sugar. It means much loss to the planters, and with the beginning of the 'dead season,' lasting from the close of the sugar season until next September, there will be no employment for labor. It means idle hands—white and negro. Such conditions cannot but add to the smoldering fire of the rebellion."

THE DOCTOR TALKS.

Library Books and Contagious Diseases. The Possibility of a Very Close Connection.

"Well sir," said the doctor, leaning back comfortably in his office-chair, "when I get a dirty bank-note I cannot help conjecturing how many different kinds of death lurk in its fibres. If there is any truth in the germ theory—and I believe that there is—then old bank-notes are certainly disease carriers. But people have a right of the possibility of infection in their eagerness to pocket legal tender. A man would be considered eccentric, to use the mildest word, were he to refuse a five-dollar bill because it was dirty, and, most likely, full of bacteria. Men do very queer things sometimes, but no one has yet, to my knowledge, refused to take a spore-laden bank note for purely hygienic reasons."

THE SAME WITH BOOKS.

"And the same with books. One can not very well go to a public library, call for a certain book, and then refuse to take it because it happens to be dirty. Such fastidiousness would justly be characterized as extreme. It might be said that any one benefiting by a public library should not complain because the books are soiled. I seldom get time to read public library literature, but to illustrate what I am going to say, I happen to have a novel here from our Wheeling public library. It was published you see in 1890. Look at it now! Much like a dirty bank note, isn't it? And like a bank note, through how many hands, clean and unclean, has it passed since it came from the press? One can hardly realize that it was once new and handsome; it is now such a filthy, unadorned old wreck."

DISEASE MAY BE IN IT.

"To think that the last person who had it was afflicted with some contagious disease might destroy a sensitive person's pleasure in reading it. A nice, clean book is beautiful to look at and agreeable to handle; a filthy one just the reverse. And most of the novels in public libraries are decidedly unclean. In fact, the dirty books are nearly all novels. They circulate rapidly, and soon, by abuse and carelessness, combined with a small amount of natural wear and tear, become soiled and tattered. "The margins are thumbred to pieces and the corners of the leaves are dog-eared and torn. The dried remnants of some unfortunate fly are not infrequently found ornamenting a page; while crumbs of cake and bread, remnants of past collations partaken of during perusal, may be seen between the leaves. Many of the leaves adhere tenaciously to each other, showing that some youth has combined the pleasure of eating molasses candy with the business of imprinting with his sticky fingers his trade mark upon the pages. CONVENIENT FLY-TRAP."

"Many of those getting works of fiction from a public library possess few books of their own, and evidently do not know how to handle a book. They are apparently ignorant of the fact that a book is made to be read, and not to be used as a fly-trap or a receptacle for crumbs. Go into the reading room of our public library and watch the proceedings of some of those engaged in reading books and periodicals. You will then see why it is that library literature is, as a rule, in a state of wreck and ruin."

"It is to be expected that after continuous use books show signs of wear; but in a public library a new novel remains in good condition but a few brief days. Now, when a book becomes sticky and dirty it begins to collect disease germs. The leaves being hard to separate on account of dirt, people, to more readily turn them, thoughtlessly moisten their fingers with their lips."

"What are the consequences? Well, the reader picks up from the dirty pages any germs that may happen to adhere to his moistened fingers. If, for instance, a person suffering from tuberculosis has previously read the book, and has moistened his fingers to turn the leaves, he has very likely deposited on the latter some of the bacilli peculiar to his disease. These little plants then placed on the paper soon die. But before doing so they develop spores, which are really seeds. These seeds under favorable conditions—such as certain portions of the human body furnish—germinate, and soon produce a new crop of bacilli, all ready for business."

A MENAGERIE OF BACTERIA.

"As many as sixty-three varieties of bacteria, among them being representatives of tuberculosis, scarlatina, and diphtheria, have been enumerated by a French bacteriologist in one square centimetre of paper taken from an old book in a hospital library. When you remember that one square centimetre is less than one quarter of a square inch, you see that there must have been a pretty considerable number of microbes in the book. Every dirty library book that comes into the home should be regarded as a disease-carrier and handled accordingly," said the doctor, emphatically. "If the leaves stick together, they should be opened with a paper-cutter and not with the moistened fingers."

"While it is probable that few really contract disease from library books, it is yet well to run no risk with them—especially the dirty ones. Handle them exactly as if they are dangerous, and you will take no harm from the filthiest one among them. And in—here the doctor was summoned by a man in a violent hurry about something or other, and abruptly ended his talk."

AN APPEAL TO HIS ROMANCE.

A Marriage Ceremony Performed Before the Opera House.

A Brooklyn dispatch says: "A curious marriage was performed at the Brooklyn hospital yesterday. Dr. Charles Seldon, a young physician was taken to the hospital to undergo an operation for appendicitis, from which a fatal result was feared by the surgeons. The doctor was engaged to Miss Gertrude Thwing, the daughter of the well known American missionary to China. She followed him to the hospital, and then in view of the danger it was decided that the marriage should precede the operation."

Both were anxious to be wedded, even if death should at once pronounce a divorce.

So there, at the patient's bed, in presence of the surgeons and with a liberal display of instruments around, the marriage ceremony was performed, and was immediately followed by the operation. Both were successful. Dr. Seldon bore himself well in both cases, and has happily survived both, and will probably get up from his hospital bed in a few days, made happy by the removal

ment of his ailment and the addition of a wife.

It is hoped that Mrs. Seldon, who has escaped being made a widow, will enjoy many years as a happy wife.

BREAKFAST BUDGET.

Owing to the insufficient width of the Corinth canal, the steepness of its sides and the current which at times becomes exceedingly strong, none of the great steamship lines of the Mediterranean sea have yet adopted this route, although it would result in the saving of much time, and, consequently, expense. Under the circumstances, it looks very much as if this enterprise, begun about the time of Nero and brought to a termination only about two years ago, is destined to result in a financial failure.

In France the act of opening letters addressed to another person is a penal offense only when perpetrated by an official connected with the postal service. This restriction has led to so much abuse the government has recently submitted to the chambers a bill providing severe punishment for every one, whether postal official or not, who is guilty of tampering with correspondence addressed to others.

Mario Louise's son by her Chamberlain, Count Neipperg, whom she married after Napoleon's death, has just died near Vienna. He was Prince William of Montenuovo, an Italianized form of Neuberger (Neipperg), and was seventy-four years old. He survived his brother, the King of Rome, sixty-three years.

Jean Jacques Rousseau's herbarium, comprising 1,500 plants, is offered for sale at Orleans. It was given after his death by his widow to his physician, and was sold once before, in 1822. Rousseau's love of nature was genuine, and his attainments as a botanist were considerable.

There are at present no less than fifty-eight persons awaiting trial at Berlin on charges of lese majesty, their crime consisting in having dared to criticize unfavorably the Kaiser's "Hymn to Aegir."

Lemardelay's restaurant in the rue Richelieu, which was founded in 1815, is to be closed. It was a favorite place for bourgeois wedding feasts, and was the scene of the famous banquet to General Boulanger.

Jesuit priests cannot preach on politics in Austria-Hungary. The superior of the order in Vienna removed a priest who broke the rule recently, and made the reason public.

PERSONAL POINTS.

Mary Brown, a revolutionary pensioner, died recently at Nashville. She was the widow of Joseph Brown, a colonial soldier, to whom she was married in 1824, when she was twenty years old. Last June there were nine widows of revolutionary soldiers drawing pensions. The oldest pensioner of this class was Polly Richardson, of East Bethel, Vt., aged ninety-three.

Mr. Edward Atkinson recently gave a party of friends a seven-course dinner, including coffee and oranges, at a cost of 13 cents a plate. Perhaps his greatest triumph in the way of cheap cooking was the dinner of four courses he furnished some Harvard students at a cost of 5 cents each. It is a pity that Mr. Atkinson that the cigars always cost more than the dinner.

Dr. George B. Keen, the librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, has received for the library from the king of Siam the gift of a Siamese edition of the sacred writings of the Southern Buddhists, the "Tripitaka," in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the king's reign.

The queen of Italy is said to have remarkable historic collection of shoes. It includes the shoes worn by Mary Stuart on her way to execution, the shoes of Joan of Arc, Marie Antoinette, Napoleon de Lenclos, Queen Louise, etc.; also a collection of shoes of various countries which has an ethnographic value.

Mrs. Richard Watson Gilder is a prominent member of the New York Association of Women opposed to the extension of suffrage. She says that in three weeks it enlisted a membership of over 7,000, more than half of whom were working women.

Princess Wilhelmine von Montclair-Sachsen Kurland, who died in Vienna the other day, was one of the wealthiest women in Austria. She gave a fortune to charity during her lifetime, but left a million or more to the Archduke Rainer.

Mariano Gentile, the millionaire, who died the other day in Messina, left his immense fortune to the Jesuits, although he had many poor relatives. This fact has caused much indignation in Sicily.

CURRENT FUN.

Gomez—I say, was it you who recommended that cook to my wife? Perez—I believe so. Gomez—Then I should like you to come and have supper with us to-night.—*La Gaceta de Mataga.*

Mrs. De Ruelle—If you ever did any good in this wide world I'd like to know what it is. Mr. De Ruelle—Well, for one thing, I saved you from dying an old maid.—*New York Weekly.*

"I never borrow trouble," said Bitton. "Well," replied the man who had once lent him money, "there's never any telling how bad a man's credit may get to be."—*Washington Star.*

Parke—Why did you give up your house in town and go out in the country to live? Lane—I've got an excuse now for being out all night.—*Brooklyn Life.*

Billy, the Goat—That manuscript I just ate has given me an awful pain. Nanny—Yes, dearest; that's called writers' cramp.—*Harpers' Bazar.*

Ada—Why did Blanche break off her engagement? Ida—Her fiancé held two rehearsals of his bachelor's dinner without a week.—*Vogue.*

She—So you wouldn't take me to be twenty. What would you take me for? He—For better or worse.—*Philadelphia Record.*

She—What effect does the full moon have upon the tide? He—None; but it has considerable upon the untied.—*Life.*

A woman's idea of a joke is something that will worry a man.—*Minnetonka Journal.*

B. H. BOWMAN, publisher Enquirer, of Bremen, Ind., writes: Last week our little girl baby, the only one we have, was taken sick with cramp. After two doctors failed to give relief and life was hanging on a mere thread, we tried One Minute Cough Cure and its life was saved. Logan Drug Co., Wheeling, W. Va., B. F. Teasdale, Benwood, and Bowls & Co., Bridgeport, O.

Relief in Six Hours.

Distracting kidney and bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." This new remedy is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passage in male or female. It relieves retention of water and pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by R. H. List, druggist, Wheeling, W. Va.

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Tan Shoes?

ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR THEM?
 We'd like to show you our line if you are, but if not, we are just as well prepared to fit you out in black. There's nothing new under the sun that WE HAVE NOT GOT, and we also retain all of the less modern shapes that had desirable qualities. So no matter what you want

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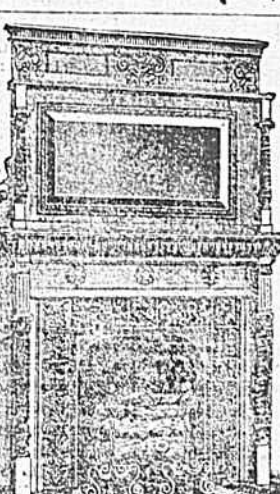
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE TO ELKS.

Wheeling Lodge No. 28, B. P. O. E. will have a regular meeting at its hall in the 10th block this (Thursday) evening. Several resolutions will be introduced into the order. All members only. All Elks, local or visiting, are cordially invited. By order of the committee: M. J. WALKER, Secy. CHAS. E. HAMIL, C. W. SEABRIGHT.

FINE FURNITURE
 —AT AUCTION—

I will sell the following persons' property at the south end of the Second Ward Market House on SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1895, at 9 a. m. 1st. Bed room Set, 2 pieces; 1 Table set, 4 pieces; 1 Day Table; 1 Dressing Table; 1 large Rug; 1 Centre Table; 1 Heating Stove. TERMS OF SALE:—Cash. M. J. WALKER, Auctioneer. ap11

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Or, we will ship to ROBERT LUCK, 1430 Market Street, Wheeling, W. Va., with whom we have arranged to receive orders and set up without extra charge. See a sample at his place. ap16 1714

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